

A NEW SPIGOT ATTACHMENT TO FACILITATE ASEPSIS.¹

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WHILE the general principles pertaining to an aseptic technique are everywhere agreed upon, the attention paid to

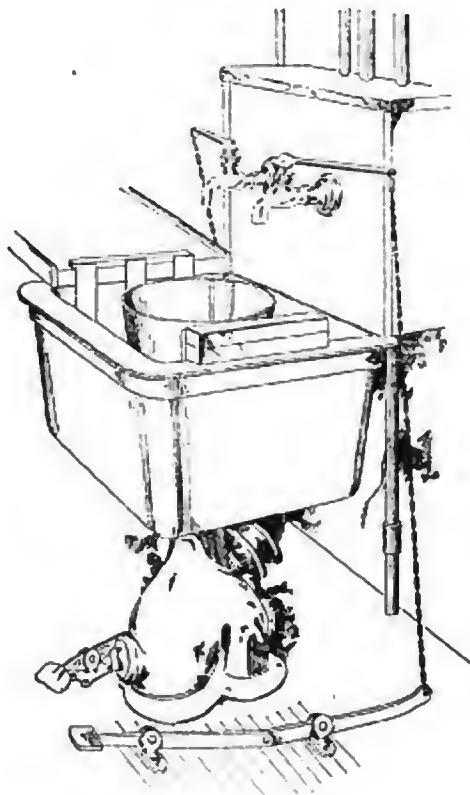


FIG. 1.—The spigot attachment.

¹ Read before the Johns Hopkins Hospital Medical Society, October 23, 1893.

the smaller points is often insufficient. I believe, however, that we should rather run the risk of exaggerating than of underestimating the importance of the minutest details, and that



FIG. 2.—Apparatus in use.

nothing that will tend to diminish the possibilities of contamination should be thought unworthy of our attention. As an outcome of this thought, I present the following :

In cleansing the hands and forearms before an operation, it is necessary to change the water frequently, and to do this the ordinary spigot must be turned on and off with the hands. As it is not possible to be sure that the spigot handle is always sterile, I have devised a contrivance by the employment of which all necessity for touching the spigot with the hands is avoided, and also an appreciable amount of time is saved as well. Instead of the regular short handle to the spigot, a horizontal bar is provided long enough to project well beyond the basin or the washstand. To the end of the rod a chain is attached, which reaches down near the floor, where it is connected with a long lever worked as a pedal. The chain is provided with an endless screw, by means of which its length can be so regulated that the surgeon standing in front of the basin can control the water supply with his feet. I have had one of these arrangements made, and it is now in use in the operatign room at No. 1418 Eutaw Place. The floor under it is protected by a rubber pad attached to the under surface of the pedal, and the length of the chain is so adjusted that the proper flow of water is insured.

I feel sure that by this device one possible source of contamination of the hands is easily and certainly eliminated.